

Message Text

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R 231500Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

CINCUSAREUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, GW, YO, US

SUBJECT: AFN INTERFERENCE WITH RADIO SARAJEVO

REF: BELGRADE 4494 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF FSFA TO RESPOND TO POINTS RAISED IN DIZDAREVIC LETTER (REFTEL). TALKING POINTS ARE CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 2 THROUGH 4 OF THIS MESSAGE.

2. GIVEN SERIOUS INTEREST OF STATE, USIA AND DOD IN ELIMINATING INTERFERENCE TO SARAJEVO ON 611 KHZ, WE ARE SURPRISED BY THE REACTION OF DIZDAREVIC TO PROPOSED POWER REDUCTION TESTS. DEPARTMENT HAS NO RECORD OF COMMUNICATION
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FROM YUGOSLAV EMBASSY CHARACTERIZING AFN POWER REDUCTION

AS "EMPTY GESTURE." AFN'S PROPOSED POWER REDUCTION TESTS ARE A MOST MEANINGFUL EFFORT TO ELIMINATE SARAJEVO PROBLEM WHILE MAINTAINING MAXIMUM PRACTICABLE SERVICE FOR AFN'S AUDIENCE IN FRG. PROBLEM FOR AFN IS THAT WITHOUT COOPERATION OF SARAJEVO OR YUGOSLAV FEDERAL AUTHORITIES IT IS MOST DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHEN AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF PROTECTION FOR SARAJEVO'S SIGNAL HAS BEEN ATTAINED.

3. THERE IS NOTHING IN ITU CONVENTION, RADIO REGULATIONS OR COPENHAGEN PLAN THAT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS REQUIRING AFN TO CEASE USE OF 611 KHZ WHEN NO INTERFERENCE IS BEING

CAUSED TO OPERATIONS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COPENHAGEN PLAN. WHILE SARAJEVO AUTHORITY IS LEGALLY CORRECT IN DEMAND THAT INTERFERENCE BE ELIMINATED IN ITS SERVICE AREA, UPON ELIMINATION OF THIS INTERFERENCE THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO LEGAL OR TREATY BASIS FOR A DEMAND THAT AFN CEASE USE OF 611 KHZ. BASED BOTH ON THE COPENHAGEN PLAN AND INFORMATION PROVIDED BY YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, THE SERVICE AREA OF RADIO SARAJEVO IS CONTAINED WITHIN THE BORDERS OF YUGOSLAVIA. THE VERY MEANINGFUL PROPOSED POWER REDUCTION TESTS ARE INTENDED TO ASSIST IN RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM FOR ALL CONCERNED. BEGIN FYI: POSSIBLE RATIONALE FOR DIZDAREVIC'S POSITION COULD BE HIS DESIRE THAT RADIO SARAJEVO BE HEARD BY YUGOSLAV GUEST WORKERS IN THE FRG, A SERVICE NOT RPT NOT PROVIDED FOR BY THE COPENHAGEN PLAN. END FYI.

4. WE HAVE MADE A GENUINELY SINCERE OFFER TO PURSUE A COOPERATIVE TEST PROGRAM WHICH WILL LEAD TO ELIMINATION OF INTERFERENCE TO SARAJEVO. THE SOONER OFFER IS ACCEPTED AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED, THE SOONER INTERFERENCE WILL BE ELIMINATED. WE RECOGNIZE THE ONUS ON THE USG TO PROTECT SARAJEVO'S LEGAL OPERATION PURSUANT TO THE COPENHAGEN PLAN; AT SAME TIME IT IS REASONABLE TO EXPECT RADIO SARAJEVO TO COOPERATE IN THE INTEREST OF MUTUAL SATISFACTION. IN THIS REGARD, FOLLOWING EXTRACTS FROM ARTICLE 15 (PROCEDURES IN A CASE OF HARMFUL INTERFERENCE) OF THE ITU RADIO REGULATIONS ARE CITED:

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(A) "IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXERCISE THE UTMOST GOODWILL AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 48 OF THE CONVENTION AND OF THIS ARTICLE IN THE SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEMS OF HARMFUL INTERFERENCE", AND (B) "WHERE PRACTICABLE, AND SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT BY ADMINISTRATIONS CONCERNED, SUCH INTERFERENCE MAY BE DEALT WITH BY DIRECT COORDINATION BETWEEN THEIR OPERATING ORGANIZATIONS".

5. OUR READING OF DIZDAREVIC LETTER INDICATES THAT HE DID NOT RPT NOT UNDERSTAND THAT INITIAL REDUCTION OF POWER OF 3 AFN STATIONS WAS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL PENDING FINAL RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM. EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS THAT AFN IS PREPARED TO REDUCE POWER TO LEVEL NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE INTERFERENCE IN RADIO SARAJEVO SERVICE AREA.

6. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT U.S. POSITION IS ACCURATELY UNDERSTOOD, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO PRESENT COPY OF THESE TALKING POINTS TO FSFA. INGERSOLL

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